IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 1-27 as indicated below. The following is a complete listing of claims and replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the present application:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A communication apparatus comprising:

a multi-address transmission ~~means for executing~~ unit, which is adapted to execute a ring type multi-address transmission in a group of [[the]] communication apparatuses; and

a determination ~~means for making~~ unit, which is adapted to make a determination as to ~~specifying of the~~ whether a ring type multi-address transmission is specified,

wherein, when the ring type multi-address transmission is specified, said multi-address transmission [[means]] unit memory-receives ~~received~~ data received by said communication apparatus and transmits the memory-received data to a next station ~~after the data is actually printed out~~ based on a print-out instruction issued according to a manual actuation of an operator.

Claim 2 (currently amended): A communication apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said multi-address transmission [[means]] unit transmits the memory-received data to the next station based on a specification from [[an]] the operator.

Claim 3 (currently amended): A communication apparatus according to claim

PAGE 6/23 * RCVD AT 2/12/2004 6:47:11 PM [Eastern Standard Time] * SVR:USPTO-EFXRF-1/1 * DNIS:8729306 * CSID:212 218 2155 * DURATION (mm-ss):05-26

1 or 2, wherein said multi-address transmission [[means]] unit transmits the memory-received data to the next station after the data is printed out, based on a specification from the operator.

Claim 4 (currently amended): A communication apparatus according to any one of claims 1 to 2, wherein said multi-address transmission [[means]] unit includes a selection ~~means for selecting~~ unit, which selects, based on a specification from the operator, transmission of the memory-received data to the next station~~, alternatively~~ or transmission of the memory-received data to the next station after the data is printed out.

Claim 5 (currently amended): A communication apparatus designed to perform a ring type multi-address transmission by transferring received data to a next station, comprising:

a receiving ~~means for receiving~~ unit, which is adapted to receive data sent by [[the]] a multi-address transmission;

~~selection means for selecting transfer/non-transfer~~ an instruction unit, which is adapted to issue an instruction on a transfer of the received data to the next station ~~based on instruction from a user~~; and

a transferring ~~means for transferring~~ unit, which is adapted to transfer the received data to the next station if the transfer to the next station is selected based on the instruction ~~from the user~~ by said instruction unit,

wherein said transferring [[means]] unit forcibly transfers the received data to

PAGE 7/23 * RCVD AT 2/12/2004 6:47:11 PM [Eastern Standard Time] * SVR:USPTO-EFXRF-1/1 * DNIS:8729306 * CSID:212 218 2155 * DURATION (mm-ss):05-26

the next station if the ~~transfer to the next station is in an unselected state for a specified period by instruction from the user~~ instruction by said instruction unit is not issued within a predetermined period of time.

Claim 6 (currently amended): A communication apparatus according to claim 5, further comprising:

a displaying ~~means for displaying presence/absence~~ unit, which is adapted to display a presence or an absence of the received data;

a storing ~~means for storing~~ unit, which is adapted to store the received data; and

a printing ~~means for printing~~ unit, which is adapted to print the stored data, wherein,

if data sent by [[the]] a multi-address transmission is received, said storing [[means]] unit stores a time of reception thereof, and said displaying [[means]] unit displays the presence of the received data, and

said printing unit forcibly prints the received data if the ~~transfer to the next station is in an unselected state for a specified period by instruction from the user, said printing means forcibly prints the received data~~ instruction by said instruction unit is not issued within a specified period of time.

Claim 7 (currently amended): A communication apparatus according to claim

PAGE 8/23 * RCVD AT 2/12/2004 6:47:11 PM [Eastern Standard Time] * SVR:USPTO-EFXRF-1/1 * DNIS:8729306 * CSID:212 218 2155 * DURATION (mm-ss):05-26

5 or 6, further comprising:

a starting ~~means for starting the~~ unit, which is adapted to start a multi-address transmission; and

a registration ~~means for registering~~ unit, which is adapted to register data regarding the next station.

Claim 8 (currently amended): A communication apparatus according to claim 6, further comprising:

an erasing ~~means for erasing the transferred~~ unit, which is adapted to erase the received data from [[the]] said storing [[means]] unit if [[the]] transfer of the received data is normally finished.

Claim 9 (currently amended): A communication apparatus according to any one of claims 6 and 8, wherein said printing [[means]] unit prints [[the]] a reception of the received data sent by the multi-address transmission and [[the]] a transfer of the received data to the next station ~~simultaneously~~ when ~~executing the forcible~~ forcibly printing [[of]] the received data.

Claim 10 (currently amended): A communication method comprising the steps of:

executing a ring type multi-address transmission in a group of [[the]]

PAGE 9/23 * RCVD AT 2/12/2004 6:47:11 PM [Eastern Standard Time] * SVR:USPTO-EFXRF-1/1 * DNIS:8729306 * CSID:212 218 2155 * DURATION (mm-ss):05-26

communication apparatuses; and

making a determination as to ~~specifying of the~~ whether a ring type multi-address transmission is specified,

wherein, when the ring type multi-address transmission is specified, said multi-address transmission step ~~memory-receives received~~ includes memory-receiving data and ~~transmits~~ transmitting the memory-received data to a next station ~~after the data is actually printed out~~ based on a print-out instruction issued according to a manual actuation of an operator.

Claim 11 (currently amended): A communication method according to claim 10, wherein said step of executing a ring type multi-address transmission ~~step transmits~~ includes transmitting the memory-received data to the next station based on a specification from [[an]] the operator.

Claim 12 (currently amended): A communication method according to claim 10 or 11, wherein said step of executing a ring type multi-address transmission ~~step transmits~~ includes transmitting the memory-received data to the next station after the data is printed out, based on a specification from the operator.

Claim 13 (currently amended): A communication method according to any one of claims 10 to 11, wherein said step of executing a ring type multi-address transmission [[step]] includes a selection step of selecting, based on a specification from the operator, transmission of

PAGE 10/23 * RCVD AT 2/12/2004 6:47:11 PM [Eastern Standard Time] * SVR:USPTO-EFXRF-1/1 * DNIS:8729306 * CSID:212 218 2155 * DURATION (mm-ss):05-26

the memory-received data to the next station~~, alternatively~~ or transmission of the memory-received data to the next station after the data is printed out.

Claim 14 (currently amended): A communication method designed to perform a ring type multi-address transmission by transferring received data to a next station, comprising the steps of:

receiving data sent by [[the]] a multi-address transmission;

~~selecting transfer/non-transfer~~ issuing an instruction on a transfer of the received data to the next station ~~based on instruction from a user~~; and

transferring the received data to the next station if the transfer to the next station is selected based on the instruction ~~from the user~~,

wherein said transferring step includes forcibly ~~transfers~~ transferring the received data to the next station if the ~~transfer to the next station is in an unselected state for a specified period by instruction from the user~~ instruction is not issued within a predetermined period of time.

Claim 15 (currently amended): A communication method according to claim 14, further comprising the steps of:

displaying ~~presence/absence~~ a presence or an absence of the received data;

storing the received data; and

printing the stored data, wherein,

PAGE 11/23 * RCVD AT 2/12/2004 6:47:11 PM [Eastern Standard Time] * SVR:USPTO-EFXRF-1/1 * DNIS:8729306 * CSID:212 218 2155 * DURATION (mm-ss):05-26

if data sent by [[the]] a multi-address transmission is received, said storing step ~~stores~~ includes storing a time of reception thereof, and ~~said displaying step displays~~ the presence of the received data is displayed in said displaying step, and

~~if the transfer to the next station is in an unselected state for a specified period by instruction from the user,~~ said printing step includes forcibly ~~prints~~ printing the received data if the instruction is not issued within a specified period of time.

Claim 16 (currently amended): A communication method according to claim 14 or 15, further comprising the steps of:

starting [[the]] a multi-address transmission; and

registering data regarding the next station.

Claim 17 (currently amended): A communication method according to claim [[14]] 15, further comprising the step of:

erasing the ~~transferred~~ received data stored in [[the]] said storing step if [[the]] transfer of the received data is normally finished.

Claim 18 (currently amended): A communication method according to any one of claims 15 and 17, wherein said printing step ~~prints the~~ includes printing a reception of the received data sent by the multi-address transmission and [[the]] a transfer of the received data to the next station ~~simultaneously~~ when ~~executing the forcible~~ forcibly printing [[of]] the received

PAGE 12/23 * RCVD AT 2/12/2004 6:47:11 PM [Eastern Standard Time] * SVR:USPTO-EFXRF-1/1 * DNIS:8729306 * CSID:212 218 2155 * DURATION (mm-ss):05-26

data.

Claim 19 (currently amended): A storage medium ~~to store~~ storing a computer program for ~~the implementation of~~ implementing a communication method ~~comprising, wherein~~ the method comprises the steps of:

executing a ring type multi-address transmission in a group of [[the]] communication apparatuses; and

making a determination as to ~~specifying of the~~ whether a ring type multi-address transmission is specified,

wherein, when the ring type multi-address transmission is specified, said step of executing a ring type multi-address transmission ~~step memory-receives received~~ includes memory-receiving data and ~~transmits~~ transmitting the memory-received data to a next station ~~after the data is actually printed out~~ based on a print-out instruction issued according to a manual actuation of an operator.

Claim 20 (currently amended): A storage medium according to claim 19, wherein said step of executing a ring type multi-address transmission ~~step transmits~~ includes transmitting the memory-received data to the next station based on a specification from [[an]] the operator.

Claim 21 (currently amended): A storage medium according to claim 19 or 20,

PAGE 13/23 * RCVD AT 2/12/2004 6:47:11 PM [Eastern Standard Time] * SVR:USPTO-EFXRF-1/1 * DNIS:8729306 * CSID:212 218 2155 * DURATION (mm-ss):05-26

wherein said step of executing a ring type multi-address transmission ~~step transmits~~ includes transmitting the memory-received data to the next station after the data is printed out, based on a specification from the operator.

Claim 22 (currently amended): A storage medium according to any one of claims 19 ~~to 21~~ and 20, wherein said step of executing a ring type multi-address transmission [[step]] includes a selection step of selecting, based on a specification from the operator, transmission of the memory-received data to the next station~~, alternatively~~ or transmission of the memory-received data to the next station after the data is printed out.

Claim 23 (currently amended): A storage medium storing a computer program for implementing a method designed to perform ring type multi-address transmission by transferring received data to a next station, ~~comprising~~ wherein the method comprises the steps of:

receiving data sent by [[the]] a multi-address transmission;

~~selecting transfer/non-transfer~~ issuing an instruction on a transfer of the received data to the next station ~~based on instruction from a user~~; and

transferring the received data to the next station if the transfer to the next station is selected based on the instruction ~~from the user~~,

wherein said transferring step includes forcibly ~~transfers~~ transferring the received data to the next station if the ~~transfer to the next station is in an unselected state for a~~

PAGE 14/23 * RCVD AT 2/12/2004 6:47:11 PM [Eastern Standard Time] * SVR:USPTO-EFXRF-1/1 * DNIS:8729306 * CSID:212 218 2155 * DURATION (mm-ss):05-26

~~specified period by instruction from the user~~ instruction is not issued within a predetermined period of time.

Claim 24 (currently amended): A storage medium according to claim 23, wherein the method further ~~comprising~~ comprises the steps of:

displaying ~~presence/absence~~ a presence or an absence of the received data;

storing the received data; and

printing the stored data, wherein,

if data sent by [[the]] a multi-address transmission is received, said storing step ~~stores~~ includes storing a time of reception thereof, and ~~said displaying step displays~~ the presence of the received data is displayed in said displaying step, and

~~if the transfer to the next station is in an unselected state for a specified period by instruction from the user,~~ said printing step includes forcibly ~~prints~~ printing the received data if the instruction is not issued within a specified period of time.

Claim 25 (currently amended): A storage medium according to claim 23 or 24, wherein the method further ~~comprising~~ comprises the steps of:

starting [[the]] a multi-address transmission; and

registering data regarding the next station.

Claim 26 (currently amended): A storage medium according to claim [[23]]

PAGE 15/23 * RCVD AT 2/12/2004 6:47:11 PM [Eastern Standard Time] * SVR:USPTO-EFXRF-1/1 * DNIS:8729306 * CSID:212 218 2155 * DURATION (mm-ss):05-26

24, wherein the method further ~~comprising~~ comprises the step of:

erasing the ~~transferred~~ received data stored in [[the]] said storing step if [[the]] transfer of the received data is normally finished.

Claim 27 (currently amended): A storage medium according to any one of claims 24 [[to]] and 26, wherein said printing step ~~prints the~~ includes printing a reception of the received data sent by the multi-address transmission and [[the]] a transfer of the received data to the next station ~~simultaneously~~ when ~~executing the forcible~~ forcibly printing [[of]] the received data.

PAGE 16/23 * RCVD AT 2/12/2004 6:47:11 PM [Eastern Standard Time] * SVR:USPTO-EFXRF-1/1 * DNIS:8729306 * CSID:212 218 2155 * DURATION (mm-ss):05-26